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Identical letters dated 12 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith identical letters from Mr. Elmar Mammedyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, on the intention of the Armenian separatist regime, established in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, to hold "elections" to the "local self-governance bodies" on 8 August 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 12 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to bring to your attention that the Armenian separatist regime, established in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, has declared its intention to hold "elections" to the "local self-governance bodies" on 8 August 2004.

Such kinds of "elections" may not claim to have a single piece of legitimacy because they are in complete contradiction with the norms of international law, as well as with the national legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, since they are being held in conditions of continuing aggression, occupation and the forceful expulsion of one third of the indigenous population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijani origin.

It is not the first time that the Armenian side organizes various so-called "elections" in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and these illegal actions were always condemned by international organizations and States. Democracy may not be built upon ethnic cleansing and occupation. Thus all attempts of the separatists to delude the international community are doomed to failure.

These attempts of the Armenian side will negatively affect the current process of peaceful settlement of the conflict. Fait accompli may not serve as a basis for settlement. Neither the current situation within the occupied areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan, nor any action, including arranging a voting process, undertaken there to consolidate the status quo may be recognized as legally valid.

The Republic of Azerbaijan reaffirms that the formation of legitimate authorities of any kind and level in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan is only possible when a just settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is achieved on the basis of norms and principles of international law, United Nations Security Council resolutions and relevant decisions of OSCE.

The Azerbaijani side counts on the United Nations, which is the only universal international organization responsible for the maintenance of peace and international security, to voice its clear and unequivocal protest against the above-mentioned actions, which violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and undermine peace, security and stability in the region of the South Caucasus.

(*Signed*) Elmar **Mammedyarov**